IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract as amended below with a replacement Abstract shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A bar code is scanned and a line of image data is extracted in a process ~~1~~. The line of extracted image is divided into patterns forming characters in a process ~~1~~. The divided patterns are converted into characters in a process ~~3~~. In the process ~~3~~, a pattern is divided by the number of modules having the smallest width forming a black bar or a white bar, a module value indicating each module as black or white is determined, and each pattern is converted into a character, thereby correctly recognizing a bar code using general-purpose optical equipment for reading a bar code.